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SUBJECT

Geological Work in the

USSR

REPORT

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1.

organization of the Ministry of Geology, USSR

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The Ministry was responsible for geological surveying and exploration of minerals. A Geological Committee (since 1930 known as Central Scientific Research Institute of Geology) under the Ministry was the main scientific institution. All major scientific exploration was done by this committee. It was divided into the following sections: Paleontological, Petrographical, Topographical, Coal, Iron, Non-ferrous metals, Oil, Construction Material, Ground Water (which also contains the engineering section, soil mechanics and engineering geology) Chemical Section (chemistry pertaining to geology) and Geophysical Methods of Surveying (seismic, magnetic, gravimetric and electrical branches). The Paleontological and Petrographic sections were administratively united in Otdel Geologicheskoi Karty. The Topographic section obtained its maps from the Main Administration of Cartography (Glavnoe Kartograficheskoe Upravlenie) or made maps themselves when they were not available.

On the next level was a group of trusts, each representing regions of the USSR, such as the Leningrad Trust, Moscow Trust and Middle Asia Trust. All together there were 17 such trusts with five or six offices representing smaller trusts. These trusts were responsible for small geological investigations in their respective areas. A small map section was included under each trust.

Later the coal and iron sections were taken out of the organization and made into separate institutes under their corresponding ministries. This may also have been done to the Iron section.

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3. [] the function of Spets-Geo []

[] Spets-Geo was basically a production organization for surveying and mapping with its primary function of making maps of the boundaries of the USSR. It was responsible for both geological and hydrogeological work which included the study of rivers, subsurface waters and trafficability of terrain (military). In the USSR it worked on practical and special problems. It sent field parties to the satellite countries and in the European countries outside the USSR's sphere of influence it collected material from overt literature.

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4. [] the structure and organization of Spets-Geo []

Each field party was responsible for work in its area of operation. The office of the branch in turn was responsible for their field parties.

The Moscow office sent parties to the west and it was the only office that had a staff of personnel to collect and work out information on the border countries. The Leningrad branch sent parties to the Far East.

Nest all military geology and the War Ministry's geology was done by Spets-Geo. The military academies did some of their own geological work. Spets-Geo was also given tasks to perform through channels and did work for institutes, bureaus and ministries. Tasks would be given to Spets-Geo which would be placed on a calendar. There was an inter-ministerial committee made up of persons interested in geology from the different ministries whose job it was to coordinate the work on Spets-Geo's calendar according to which task had priority over another. Should their calendar be empty and men be available, Spets-Geo did the task assigned to them without working through this committee.

As a rule Spets-Geo published nothing except special works which came out in a magazine. An agency presented its problem to Spets-Geo through the necessary channels and received its report back in typewritten form with the necessary maps, charts and drawings. It was then the responsibility of the agency to publish the report.

The Moscow branch kept all finished studies and files. The Leningrad branch kept its own works on file.

Maps were given to the agencies for whom work was done and copies were kept by Spets-Geo. No maps were sold by Spets-Geo.

Much more emphasis was placed on geological work than on geographical work.

5. [] geographical information is collected []

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[] For military purposes Spets-Geo collected data along the frontiers on trafficability of terrain, depth of rivers, velocity of current, bank slopes, hardness of formations, depth of ground waters, types and character of vegetation, swamps, marshes and forests. The types of geographical information collected depended upon the requirements submitted to Spets-Geo. Generally they collected the same type of geographical material that would be expected of any one dealing in that field.

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